(b) the circumstances leading to huge accumulation of EPF amount; and

(c) the reasons for not enforcing EPF guidelines for timely deposit of the EPF amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As on 31.03.2003, there were 367 public sector units and 850 private sector units in default of Rs. 10 lakh and above, amounting to Rs. 611.79 crores and Rs. 374.02 crores respectively. The total arrears as on 31.03.2003 stood at Rs. 1,511.79 crores.

(b) Some of the circumstances leading to accumulation of arrears of Employees' Provident Fund are financial constraints, sickness of industry, stays by courts, liquidation, closure and wilful defaults.

(c) the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has already launched a re-engineering program, which covers recovery. Monthly default is monitored through an IT assisted program called the 'Computerised Compliance Tracking System' (CCTS) and enforcement action taken as per law.

Recovery of EPF dues

2036. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total outstanding arrears due from the State, the Central Public Sector Undertakings and Private Undertakings towards Employment Provident Fund dues as on the beginning of the current fiscal year;

(b) how much of it has since been realised, till-date; and

(c) the stern measures being taken to realise EPF dues from defaulting firms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The amount of Employees Provident Fund outstanding arrears as on 1.4.2003 from the Central PSUs, State PSUs and Private Undertakings is Rs. 297.07 crores, Rs. 339.10 crores and Rs. 875.62 crores respectively.

(b) Rs. 277.93 crores have been realised upto 30.6.2003.

(c) Besides the regular penal actions as provided in the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the following additional steps have also been taken for recovery of outstanding dues, so that interests of the affected employees are protected :

(i) Representations in courts have been strengthened to get stay orders and counter writ-petitions filed.

(ii) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund has approved setting up of a separate Directorate of Recovery to monitor and co-ordinate recovery work including closer coordination with B.I.F.R., Standing Counsel of the Organisation etc.

Census of Child Labour

2037. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey or census about the child labour languishing in the slums of Hyderabad and other Urban areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action plan Government have to educate and rehabilitate these child labourers of the State;

(d) whether any external funding is being extended in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National productivity growth rate

2038. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that national productivity growth rate is stuck at just 4.3 per cent;